

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9236

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MUNCIH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1322

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR, GR

SUBJ: L.N. TOLKUNOV MOVES FROM IZVESTIYA TO "NOVOSTI"

1. PRAVDA ANNOUNCED JANUARY 28 APPOINTMENT OF IZVESTIYA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF L.N. TOLKUNOV TO CHAIRMANSHIP OF "NOVOSTI"
PRESS AGENCY (APN). FORMER INCUMBENT I.I. UDAL'TSOV WAS
RELEASED FOR TRANSFER TO OTHER WORK.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: FRENCH EMBOFF SAID JANUARY 22 THAT
UDAL'TSOV WAS RUMORED TO BE NEXT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ATHENS.
WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON NEXT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF IZVESTIYA.

3. CLEARLY, TRANSFER OF TOLKUNOV IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN
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TOP LEVELS OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA MACHINERY, AND IT MAY

ALSO BE REGARDED AS PART OF PRE-CONGRESS PERSONNEL
SHUFFLING.

4. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY FOREIGN EDITOR STURUA WHO WAS
QUERIED ON JANUARY 28 BY EMBOFF ON THE MEANING OF
TOLKUNOV'S TRANSFER, IT DOES NOT SIGNIFY A DEMOTION
FOR TOLKUNOV'S BUT A FUTURE INCREASE IN THE IMPORTANCE
AND ACTIVITIES OF APN. EVIDENTLY THE SOVIETS HOPE TO
MAKE APN A MORE EFFECTIVE CHAMPION OF SOVIET
INTERESTS IN THE MEDIA.

5. AS FAR AS EFFECT ON APN STYLE IS CONCERNED, TOLKUNOV
HAS SHOWN HIMSELF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ATTENDED BY
EMBOFFS TO BE A RIGID DEFENDER OF SOVIET ORTHODOXIES.
WE DOUBT THAT APN WILL BECOME LESS DOCTRINAIRE UNDER
TOLKUNOV. WHILE UDAL'TSOV MAY LOSE HIS
CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP ON THE CPSU CC, TOLKUNOV SHOULD
RETAIN HIS CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP AT THE 25TH PARTY
CONGRESS.
STOESSEL

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